SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at http://www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary. While the problems experienced by some members accessing the SARL web pages are being attended to, an additional channel is now available. To download the weekly SARL News audio recordings and to listen to, or download Amateur Radio Today, log on to www.amateurradio.org.za.

In the news today:

CALLING ALL THE NEW RADIO AMATEURS

ICASA CEO AGREES TO A SARL/ICASA WORKSHOP

and

THE ZS5 QSO PARTY NEXT SUNDAY

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

CALLING ALL THE NEW RADIO AMATEURS

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RADIO ZS CELEBRATES 75 YEARS IN JULY

Thank you to Gert, ZS2GS and Martin, ZS5ADL for your photos. Thanks to Pierre, ZS1HF; Pieter, ZS3PG; Anette, ZR6D and Nico, ZS6QL for your articles for the 75th Anniversary issue. The editor has received a nice article about the Pretoria ARC, it would be nice if other Clubs had done the same. Louw, ZS6LME is working on his article. Members and Clubs are invited to submit articles for this special issue, send your article to radiozs@sarl.org.za in MS Word or OpenOffice format. The closing date is extended to Tuesday 28 June 2022.

ICASA CEO AGREES TO A SARL/ICASA WORKSHOP

On Monday last week representatives of the SARL and ICASA met in a virtual meeting to discuss the many outstanding issues. ICASA provided feedback on the progress made in the development of guidelines on changing legacy licenses to the new system and how to register for a new license and how to update the system. ICASA told the SARL that they have taken a holistic approach ensuring that the video guidelines will cover all aspects and classes of licencing. ICASA agreed to confirm the date of when the guidelines will be available and supply the URL. ICASA confirmed that a licence application can take up to 60 days to be completed. Once registered on the system and a licence issued all other actions can be done by the licence holder online, including licence payments.

The SARL requested that a face to face workshop be arranged so that the SARL can explain the various facets of amateur radio to the many new employees at the Authority and to resolve the many outstanding issues that date back to before the lock down in 2020. The CEO agreed with the SARL proposal and requested the SARL to prepare a detailed agenda and back up paperwork so the right ICASA employees can be directed to attend the workshop. No date was agreed. The SARL will supply ICASA with three possible dates.

The question of Type approval was briefly discussed. It appears that ICASA has finalised the new regulations but is now consulting with other organisations such as SA National Accreditation System (SANAS) before gazetting the new dispensation. This is not expected till March 2023. The SARL expressed its dismay in the long lead times.

The lack of an updated version of Annexure I of the Radio Frequency Regulations was again brought to the attention of the CEO. There is currently a discrepancy between the agreed 160 metre band allocation and what appears in the National Radio Frequency Bandplan. The SARL has on several occasions pointed this out to ICASA during the draft stages and on publication of the final plan. The CEO requested the SARL to resubmit correspondence.

Not all items on the agenda were discussed as only one hour was allocated for the meeting. These items will be placed on the workshop agenda. The SARL was represented by President Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL and Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, SARL Manager Regulatory Affairs.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

CLUB NEWS

The Sandton ARC have moved their Power Hour Tech Talk to the last Thursday of each month. The next Power Hour Tech Talk will start at 18:45 CAT on Thursday evening, 30 June. Noel, ZR6DX, is our special guest and he will be showing and telling us everything you need to know about logging, or at least this is what we think he will be doing during our first ever hybrid Tech Talk using Zoom, the 145,700 Sandton repeater and EchoLink via ZS6STN-R. For those connecting via Zoom, the link is available in the SARL upcoming events

diary and on the ZS6STN Facebook page. Please come and spend the Power hour with us and join the conversation.

The Boland ARC RAE Class A course via Zoom runs from 16 July until 15 October 2022 with the RAE exam on Saturday 22 October 2022. The recommended Class A course lasts 12 weeks with one extra session for questions and answers as well as a mock exam. Sessions take place on Saturdays at 10:30 - 12:30 CAT. As part of the course, you are expected to learn how to operate an HF station in a safe manner without interfering with others. The practical HF Assessment will take place at the Boland Club meeting in August 2022. For more information or to register for the course, please visit www.bark.org.za or contact Jannie ZS1JFK at zs1jfk@gmail.com or mobile 084 225 1629.

The Border Radio Club in East London Held their AGM on Tuesday 21 June 2022 and the following members were elected to the committee until June 2023.

Chairman: Ivan, ZS2ILN

Vice Chairman: Andrew, ZS2EL

Secretary: Alistair, ZS2AB

Treasurer: John, ZS2JRS

Members: Duppie, ZS2DA; Brendan, ZS2BG and Gavin, ZS2GMA

CONTEST NEWS

The ZS5 QSO Party is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in Kwazulu-Natal and radio amateurs in Southern African countries. The aim for stations outside ZS5 is to work as many ZS5 stations as possible! The QSO Party is on the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 3 July 2022. ZS5 stations will exchange a RS or RST report and the name or abbreviation of their town, while all others will exchange a RS or RST report and their provincial or country abbreviation. The QSO Party is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre band. Take note of the contest free segment in the phone allocation. Submit your MS Excel log by 21:59 UTC on Friday 8 July 2022 by e-mail to zs5contest@harc.org.za. Turn to page 48 of the 2022 Blue Book for all the rules.

Nineteen logs were received for the SARL Top Band QSO Party held from 8 to 12 June 2022. These 19 logs contained 490 QSOs between 63 stations from 24 different grids. All the QSOs were made on phone, no CW QSOs were listed in any of the received logs. The 63 stations are made up from ZS1 - 0; ZS2 - 3 stations; ZS3 - 4 stations; ZS4 - 6 stations; ZS5 - 4 stations; ZS6 - 45 stations and V51 - 1 station.

1st Cliff Jones, ZS6BJU - 124 points

2nd Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ - 116 points

3rd Lukas Holtzhausen, ZS6LH - 112 points

Thirteen logs were received for the SARL Youth QSO Party held on Thursday 16 June 2022.

1st Charles Coetzee, ZU3CEC - 65 points

2nd Ethan Oberholzer, ZU3EO - 56 points

3rd Monique Wiese, ZU3MW - 54 points

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently 4 sunspots with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high possibility for C- and low probability for M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 52. The 15 to 30 m bands will especially late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

30 June – The Sandton ARC Talking Tech Power Hour at 19:00 CAT on 145,700/Echolink

1 July – the start of the 2022/23 SARL Financial year and registration for October RAE opens

2 July – the SARL Newbie Contest

3 July – the ZS5 QSO Party

7 July – International Chocolate Day and the closing date for Newbie Logs

8 July – the closing date for ZS5 Logs

9 July – the RaDAR Challenge

9 and 10 July – the IARU HF Championships

16 July – the Winter QRP contest

17 July – the ZS2 QSO Party

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The SARL Newbie QSO Party is a fun activity to encourage all NEW radio amateurs to become active and make phone QSOs on 80, 40 and 20 metres. The first leg of the QSO Party is on the air from 08:00 to 20:00 UTC on Saturday 2 July 2022. The exchange and the scoring depend on the length that you are a radio amateur. Get the rules on page 35 of the 2022 Blue Book.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proof read by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.